

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action mailed January 23, 2004, claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 11-13, 22 and 25 have been amended. Claims 1, 3-8 and 11-14 and 22-27 are now active in this application, of which claims 1 and 22 are independent.

Entry of the Amendments and Remarks is respectfully requested because entry of Amendment places the present application in condition for allowance, or in the alternative, better form for appeal. No new matters are believed to be added by these Amendments.

Based on the above Amendments and the following Remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider the outstanding objections and rejections and they be withdrawn.

Claim Objection

In the Office Action, claims 1, 6 and 13 were objected to for informalities. This objection is respectfully traversed because, in this response, the informalities have been corrected as suggested by the Examiner. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §112

In the Office Action, claims 3-8, 11-14 and 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Examiner pointed out that claims 3 and 4 and claims 11-13 are dependent from cancelled claims 2 and 10, respectively. In this response, claims 3 and 4 are amended to be dependent from claim 1 and claims 11-13 are amended to be dependent from claim 9. Also,

claims 25 is amended to be dependent from claim 23, which recites “the first light guiding plate has ... a second surface ...”

Applicants believe that all the dependency and antecedent basis issues are addressed in this response. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection over claims 3-8, 11-14 and 25 be withdrawn.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 22, 25 and 26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) for being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,926,601 issued to Tai, *et al.* (“Tai”). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In this response, independent claim 22 is amended to recite “a first light guiding plate adjoining the light source and having a first pattern *formed on a surface thereof* ...”.

In the Office Action, the Examiner stated that the arrangement 28 corresponds to the claimed first light guide plate. However, the arrangement 28 does not have any pattern formed on its surface for uniformly inducing the light beam. Tai fails to disclose or suggest the claimed “first pattern formed on a surface thereof”.


Thus, it is submitted that independent claim 22 is patentable over Tai. Claims 25 and 26 that are dependent from claim 22 would be also patentable at least for the same reason. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection over claims 22, 25 and 26 be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, claims 1, 3-8 and 11-14 and 22-27 are in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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